

**BLACK HAWK COUNTY METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD &
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD JOINT MEETING**

THURSDAY, June 12, 2025

MINUTES

Smock (Chair) called the meeting of the Black Hawk County Metropolitan Area Transportation Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee to order at 10:00 AM.

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Title	Representing	Role
Ritch Kurtenbach	Supervisor	Black Hawk County	Policy Board Member
DeAnne Kobliska	Mayor	City of Evansdale	Policy Board Member (Vice-Chair)
Lisa Smock	Mayor	City of Elk Run Heights	Policy Board Member (Chair)
Scott Becker	Councilperson, Mayor Pro Tem	City of Gilbertville	Policy Board 1 st Alternate
Aric Schroeder	City Planner	City of Waterloo	Policy Board 2nd Alternate
John Dornoff	Planner II	City of Waterloo	Attendee
David Struch	General Manager	MET Transit	TTC Member
Ryann Brennan	Assistant County Engineer	Black Hawk County	TTC Member
Michelle Sweeney	AECOM	AECOM	Attendee
Curtis Young	Chair CSAC	CSAC	Attendee
Gail Bunz*	Mayor	City of Hudson	Policy Board Member (Online)
Mark Durbahn*	Senior Project Manager	AECOM	Attendee (Online)
Krista Billhorn*	District Planner	DOT	Attendee (Online)
Oghogho Oriakhi	Transportation Planner I	INRCOG	MPO Staff

**Attended Online*

The first item was approval of the agenda. It was moved by Kurtenbach, seconded by Kobliska, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the May 8, 2025, meeting. It was moved by Kobliska, seconded by Becker, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item was to hold a Public Hearing and consider approval of the Draft FY 2026-2029 Transportation Program (TIP). The public hearing was opened by Smock (Chair) at 10:01 am. A motion to open the hearing by Kurtenbach, seconded by Kobliska. The motion carried unanimously. Oriakhi explained that the aim of the TIP is solely to ensure local transportation priorities align with federal, state, and regional plans, and they are fiscally constrained. Oriakhi mentioned that, upon approval by the Policy Board, the Draft TIP for FY 26 – FY 29 will be sent to the DOT for review. Also, mentioned was that the document is available for review by members of the policy board and technical committee on the website <https://bhcmpo.org/mpo-plans-programs/>. The public notice has been open to the public with no comments. Smock (Chair) asked if there were any comments while the hearing was open. With no Comments, Smock (Chair) closed the public hearing at 10:04 am. Motion was made by Becker, seconded by Kurtenbach, to approve the draft TIP for FY26 – 29. Motion carried unanimously.

The Next Item was to hold a Public Hearing and consider approval of the Amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Advancing Pavement Rehabilitation Project US 218: W US 63 Interchange to Cedar River Bridge in Waterloo from FY'26 to FY'25. The public hearing was opened by Smock (Chair) at 10:04 am. Motion to open the hearing by Kobliska, seconded by Becker, the motion carried unanimously. Oriakhi explained that the DOT was requesting to move forward the Pavement Rehabilitation Project US 218: W US 63 Interchange to

Cedar River Bridge in Waterloo, initially programmed for FY'26 to FY'25. Oriakhi stated that the amendment of the FY 2025 – 2028 TIP will require approval by the policy board members. Smock (Chair) asked if there were any comments while the hearing was open. With no Comments, Smock (Chair) closed the public hearing at 10:06 am. A motion was made by Kobliska, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the Advancing Pavement Rehabilitation Project US 218: W US 63 Interchange to Cedar River Bridge in Waterloo from FY'26 to FY'25, and amendments to the FY 2025-2028 TIP; the motion carried unanimously.

The Next Item was to hold a Public Hearing and consider approval of an Amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program, Advancing Bridge Deck Overlay Project US 218: NB 218 to SB IA 27/58 (Ramp J) N of IA 57 in Waterloo from FY'28 to FY'25. The public hearing was opened by Smock (Chair) at 10:06 am. Motion was made by Kobliska, seconded by Schroeder. The motion carried unanimously. Oriakhi mentioned that the DOT was requesting approval of an amendment to the FY 2025-2028 TIP to enable the DOT to move forward Advancing Bridge Deck Overlay Project US 218: NB 218 to SB IA 27/58 (Ramp J) N of IA 57 in Waterloo, initially programmed in FY'28 to FY'25. Smock (Chair) asked if there were any comments while the hearing was open. With no Comments, Smock (Chair) closed the public hearing at 10:08 am. A motion was made by Kobliska, seconded by Becker, to approve the amendments to the FY 2025-2028 TIP. Motion carried unanimously.

Up next: discussion Items

1. New Hire of Transportation Planner II

Oriakhi mentioned that a new hire had been made for the role of Transportation Planner II. Oriakhi mentioned that they come with great skill sets, holding master's in urban planning from the University of Iowa, with a focus on Transportation Planning.

2. National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) Grant.

Oriakhi stated that the NCMM grant aims to address transportation barriers encountered by youths while fostering youth engagement in mobility. Implementing the NCMM grant poses some challenges as INRCOG collaborates with potential partners such as the Boys and Girls Club to implement the pilot program. Oriakhi mentioned that one challenge reiterated by George Phillips, coordinator of the Boys and Girls Club during the last Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, was the difficulty in recruitment and navigating the challenge of finding a hire to drive young people to after-school events for a 3-hour workday.

3. Project Updates

- a. City and County Project updates

Kobliska reported for the City of Evansdale that the reconstruction on Lafayette Road is ongoing with no major issues, and the project is expected to be completed by August. Schroeder mentioned for the City of Waterloo that Phase 2 of the La Porte Road ROW acquisition was initiated this week. Sweeney added that the D5 submittal and preliminary design are in progress, with right-of-way (ROW) acquisition currently under review. He noted that the bid letting for Phase 2 is targeted for December. Sweeney also mentioned challenges with the Gilbertville project, with ongoing discussions involving INRCOG, the City of Gilbertville, and the Iowa DOT. Krista Billhorn (Iowa DOT District 2) requested a follow-up with the DOT. Brennan reported that Black Hawk County's rehabilitation work on Dubuque Road, east of Raymond, is a few months from completion. Smock (Chair) noted that Elk Run Heights is making steady progress on various ongoing rehabilitation projects.

- b. MET Transit Study

Sturch mentioned that MET is wrapping up the Study and final editing. Sweeney asked what the next steps would look like. Sturch mentioned that an Improvement to the bus

wash, and currently preliminary site plan design is being developed. Connecting the bus wash to the bus base for maintenance. Next would be following up with NEPA funding for the building improvement and acquiring new buses. Kobliska was curious about the effectiveness of the buses. Sturch mentioned that the battery can last 200 miles instead of 140 miles. Also, they are looking at installing solar panels over the roof of the building.

c. NEIA NEPA Study

Durbahn stated that correspondence with DOT for Travel Demand Modeling (TDM) has been ongoing. However, Durbahn mentioned that there was a setback at the DOT just recently, the personnel handling the Travel Demand Model (TDM) had picked up a position at a different organization, and they are having someone else fill that position. Durbahn mentioned that the next steps would be receiving and reviewing the various traffic modelling and expected alternatives, and presenting the alternative from the study to the public over the summer.

d. SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Sweeney mentioned that the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) had initially been adopted by the Waterloo City Council just recently. Sweeney stated that AECOM was updating and making amendments to the SS4A study to include other conversions of one-way streets to two-way corridors, accommodating pedestrian infrastructure, while improving safety. Kurtenbach asked what the big push is for the change from a one-way corridor to a two-way corridor. Sweeney responded that it's a push from the business owners, considering the traditional downtown two-way streets, with a much-reduced speed, as well as the overall pedestrian safety and general accessibility.

Next was the general Discussion.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Becker, seconded by Kurtenbach. Motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Oghogho Oriakhi
Secretary